

Sinclair
Broadcasting's
decision to force
their stations to
air an anti-Kerry
documentary days
before the election
is a clear example
of the dangers of
media consolidation
and an arrogant
abuse of their
franchise to use our
spectrum space.

When a large number
of owners owned
small numbers of
broadcast outlets,
and when the FCC
apparently cared
about broadcast
stations serving the
public interest, the
stakes were smaller.
When a small number
of mammoth firms,
such as Sinclair
dominate the
airwaves, we get
more of what's good
for the bottom line
and less of what we
need for our
democracy. And we
get "media monopoly"
with few
opportunities for
free and open reply.

Sinclair's actions
show why we need to
strengthen media
ownership rules, not
weaken them. They
show why the license
renewal process
needs to involve
more than a returned
postcard. Thank you.